

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5411

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 580

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BF

SUBJECT: GCOB ATTITUDE TOWARD WESTERN HEMISPHERE FM FORUM,
OAS AND CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

REF: NASSAU 570

1. AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH MINEXTAFF ADDERLEY MARCH 29
CONCLUDED WITH ADDERLEY REVIEWING IN GENERAL TERMS
CURRENT GCOB THINKING ON BAHAMIAN PARTICIPATION IN
THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE FM FORUM, THE OAS AND THE
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY.

2. ADDERLEY IS FRANKLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE VALUE OF
GCOB PARTICIPATION IN THE MEXICO AND WASHINGTON FM
CONFERENCES. HE SPOKE OF HIS DISTASTE FOR CONFRONTATION
POLITICS. BAHAMAS IS NOT ABLE TO RELATE TO THE ENTHUSIASM
FOR THE "NEW DEPARTURE" IN HEMISPHERE RELATIONS. IT
HAS NO EXPERIENCE WITH THE PAST AND ADDERLEY FOR ONE
THOUGHT MEXICO FM WAS WAY MEETINGS OUGHT TO GO. HE
DESCRIBED MANY OF THE GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AT MEXICO
FM AS "FASCIST GOVERNMENTS ON THEIR WAY OUT."

3. STATEMENT OF WHITE PAPER THAT GCOB WOULD
SEEK OAS MEMBERSHIP WAS A MISTAKE. IT WOULD BE OF LITTLE
PRACTICAL BENEFIT TO THE BAHAMAS AND THE IDB TIE IS OF
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LITTLE VALUE SINCE BAHAMIANS, SAVE FOR THE US, ARE

THE LEAST LIKELY TO OBTAIN LENDING ASSISTANCE.

4. OVERALL, CANADIAN APPROACH TO ITS HEMISPHERE ROLE AND PARTICIPATION IS A PERSUASIVE EXAMPLE TO GCOB. WHITE PAPER COMMITMENT TO OAS MEMBERSHIP WOULD BECOME AN EXQRESSION OF FUTURE INTENT".

5. BAHAMIAN PROBABLY WILL JOIN CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY. PROBLEM WILL BE TO AVOID BECOMING TOO CARIBBEAN AND TOO INVOLVED IN ALL THE AFFAIRS OF THE REGION.

6. COMMENT: IN PASSING, AND AS HE HAD DONE ON AT LEAST TWO OTHER OCCASIONS, ADDERLEY REMARKED THAT NOT ONE MEMBER OF US DEL TO MEXICO MFM SPOKE TO HIM FROM BEGINNING TO END OF SESSION. SINCE GCOB STILL ENGAGED IN THINKING OUT ITS PREFERRED HEMISPHERE ROLE AND POSITION, AND MINISTER HIMSELF IS CLEARLY SENSITIVE TO ATMOSPHERE AND ATTITUDES, EMBASSY URGES THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE BY US DEL TO WASHINGTON MFM TO SEEK HIM OUT AND ENCOURAGE AN EXPRESSION OF HIS VIEWS.
RIDGWAY

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